

May 2, 2004

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As an avid music and talk radio fan, I would like to submit my comments regarding the National Association of Broadcaster's petition. I feel the NAB's petition is simply an attempt to prevent fair competition between terrestrial broadcasters and satellite radio services. Furthermore, I believe prohibiting SDARS from providing localized content puts the consumer at a disadvantage.

By not allowing SDARS to provide local traffic, weather, news and other information, consumers are forced to rely on terrestrial broadcasters. Why should a consumer's choice of where to obtain this vital information be limited based on the medium by which it is transmitted? Does this not give terrestrial broadcasters represented by the NAB an unfair advantage? Currently a small number of NAB members have exclusive control over the local news, traffic and weather information, leaving the consumer with little or no choice in many markets. SDARS should be permitted and even encouraged to provide an alternative source of localized content to consumers. Lifting the current restrictions on local content would create a positive effect for both NAB members and SDARS by forcing them to provide a superior product to effectively compete for consumers.

Consumers are left at a major disadvantage currently because they are unable to receive potentially critical local news and weather reports while using a satellite radio. If consumers were able to receive critical local content across the entire spectrum of radio equipment, they could be better prepared in the event of an emergency or crisis situation. Looking ahead, the FCC could even work with the SDARS to use local repeaters and future satellites to include Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts with their content.

I hope the FCC considers the NAB's petitions very carefully and thoroughly, putting the consumer first. Thank you for your time and this forum to provide comments regarding this matter.

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